Fairfield University
Early Learning Center

A total learning center
for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years

For additional information, call the Early Learning Center at
(203) 254-4028
www.fairfield.edu/elc
Fairfield University Early Learning Center

Fairfield University is pleased to collaborate with Carousel Educational Services Inc. in offering an Early Learning Center on campus. This initiative has a two-fold purpose:

- to provide quality daycare services for the children of those individuals affiliated with the campus community at a reasonable cost; and
- to provide a resource for study of early childhood development in the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, the School of Nursing, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

High Quality Facility, Environment and Programming

We at Fairfield University and Carousel know how important childcare selection is. We wish to assure you that this collaborative effort is one that will provide you and your child with a safe and attractive daycare environment with programming that is responsive to your child’s individual needs and challenges each child’s development potential.

The Fairfield University Early Learning Center provides the following:

- An early care and education program based on accepted and researched theories of child development
- Individualized programs designed to meet the needs of each child
- Curriculum that is child-oriented and emergent by the children
- Teaching staff who have specialized educational training in child development and developmentally appropriate practice with young children, including health, safety, and nutritional guidelines

Unity

By Cleo V. Swarat

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child’s mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher:
The tools she used were books and music and art;
One was a parent
With a guiding hand and a gentle loving heart.

And when at last their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had worked into the child
Could never be sold or bought!

And each agreed she would have failed
If she had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
and behind the teacher stood the home!

For additional information, call the Early Learning Center at (203) 254-4028.

www.fairfield.edu/elc
• A healthy, safe physical environment in an attractive and new 3,000-square-foot facility designed in New England colonial style, featuring separate indoor and outdoor areas for pre-school children, toddlers, and infants
• Respect for family’s culture and encouragement of family participation
• Staff who show respect and affection for children and families, interacting with them in caring ways

**Parent requirements for a smooth beginning…**

1) **Complete registration** — Registration Form, registration fee, and child’s updated health form. Include any physician forms for EPI-PEN treatment.
2) **Read Parent Handbook** and return last page with signature by parent.
3) **Supply to the center diapers, wipes, and two complete changes of clothing** for your child in a material bag.
4) **Provide a daily lunch** with a beverage and cold pack inside, labeled with your child’s name.
5) **Provide five crib sheets for infants** (each day), formula, and infant foods with a labeled cold pack (their daily schedule).
6) **Provide a small blanket** in a cloth bag for naptime.
7) **Provide the staff of teachers with photographs** from home for the classroom. It is important for your child to see these photographs as he or she acclimates to the environment.
8) **All clothing, linens, meals, and other materials** should have your child’s name sewn, pasted or printed on them.

**Opportunities for Parental involvement**

- Join our parent committee
- Read to the children
- Assist on field trips
- Share your cultural traditions with the children
- Help us with celebrations
- And any other ways you can become involved…

---

**Early Learning Center Mission and Philosophy**

This program will empower the children in it with high self-esteem that will enable them to be productive within their families, their relationships with peers, and eventually within their communities. It recognizes and respects the uniqueness of each child, therefore cultural and linguistic differences are reflected in all aspects of the environment. The staff combines its vast knowledge of early childhood education with a warm and nurturing environment in which each child is able to develop appropriately.

The Center’s program reflects the shared values of Fairfield University’s Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions. The core mission is to create an environment that enhances each child’s multiple areas of development and competence. The program encompasses relevant child development theories and philosophy. We provide a home-like setting in which children may learn through play. The Center uses the positive guidance approach through redirection, teaching problem-solving skills, and offering a variety of choices to each child to foster independence and development.
Carousel Center Staff
Joyce Abate, M.Ed., Executive Director, President, Carousel Educational Services, Inc.
Tara Abate, Administrator
Vicki Jurgens, A.A., Program Director
Jennifer Cichetti, B.A., Early Childhood, Educational Program Director

The staff of caregivers is selected because they view early childhood care and education as a professional career. Staff members are required to enroll in early childhood education study at colleges and to further their early childhood education degrees. Staff members are also required to obtain their Child Development Associate Credential (CDA), as well as continue taking formal coursework toward a degree in early childhood education. Staff members attend professional development workshops, conferences, and seminars to keep them aware of innovation and current information in the field of early childhood education.

Fairfield University Liaison
Barbara Welles-Nyström, Ed.D., Early Childhood Education Liaison and Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions

The faculty liaison will be the central contact between the ELC and the Academic Division of Fairfield University for academic purposes (eg. facilitating educational opportunities for Fairfield University students and faculty).

Program goals and objectives:
• To implement the knowledge of child development when setting up the physical environment and planning child-centered developmentally appropriate curriculum
• To provide a safe, nurturing environment that ensures the healthy growth and development of each child
• To stimulate each child by offering physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and creative developmentally appropriate activities in a variety of ways
• To establish positive working relationships with families
• To interact with community resources – bringing the community in and sharing it with our children, as well as reaching out to the community
• To promote a community of learners; children, teachers, and families.

Operation Information
The Center provides an extended full-time day program, from 7:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Center closes for holidays and for professional training days for staff each year, and remains open throughout the year, except for possible inclement weather. All holidays, absences and closings are charged throughout the year. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. and we ask that arrival is between 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. An extended day means that you are free to use any or all of the hours we are open, for the same fixed tuition rate. (See Tuition Rate Sheet) All tuition is paid on a weekly or monthly basis.

Registration
The Center is open year-round (August through July). A $100 non-refundable registration fee will hold a space for your child from the time and the date that you register until the year begins. Registration takes place every March. The registration fee must be accompanied with the registration form and the child health form, which must be completed by the child’s physician. For more information, call the Center at (203) 254-4028.